

McDERMOTT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. McDERMOTT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD FORD, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. CLEMENT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD is serving his 11th consecutive term as Tennessee's Ninth District Congressman. He is the first and only African-American Tennessean elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to his election to Congress, he served two terms in the Tennessee Legislature and represented the same geographic area of Memphis in which his great grandfather served as a squire during the Reconstruction era.

Congressman FORD has achieved an unparalleled reputation of service to his constituents. FORD takes seriously the constitutional Framer's intent of making the House of Representatives "the People's Body." He holds hundreds of townhall meetings throughout the year and his responsiveness to the needs and views of his constituents is legendary. Keeping the Government close to the people is Congressman FORD's top priority.

In Washington, Congressman FORD effectively represents his urban district through his assignment on the powerful Committee on Ways and Means. He is fifth in seniority on the committee and has played pivotal roles in the committee's major legislation including health care reform, taxation, and welfare reform.

During the budget debate in the 103d Congress, Congressman FORD advanced the empowerment zones and enterprise communities provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. He has helped craft this landmark legislation, which is the most significant antipoverty initiative since the 1960's.

Congressman FORD is recognized as a national leader and expert on child welfare because of his service as chairman and now ranking Democrat of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources. In 1988, Congressman FORD worked with then Gov. Bill Clinton to write the most important welfare reform bill to date.

The election of Bill Clinton to the Presidency and the change in power in the Congress, once again placed welfare reform in the forefront. Congressman FORD brought years of legislative experience and an effective working rela-

tionship with the President to the welfare debate. Congressman FORD's consistent support of work, education and training, and child care programs in welfare reform were further bolstered by a recent report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Memphis.

Congressman FORD is active in social and community activities in Memphis and throughout the country. He is a member of the National Advisory Board of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Metropolitan YMCA Board. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Congressman FORD is the recipient of a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Tennessee State University in Nashville, and a masters in business administration from Howard University in Washington, DC. He also received an honorary doctorate from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, and an associate of arts degree in mortuary science from John Gupton College in Nashville.

Congressman FORD was born on May 20, 1945, in Memphis, and is the 8th of 15 children of N.J. and Vera Ford. Congressman FORD is married to the former Dorothy Boles of Memphis. They are the proud parents of three sons: Harold Jr., Jake, and Sir Isaac. He and his family are members of the Mt. Moriah East Baptist Church of Memphis.

It has truly been an honor to serve with HAROLD. Congratulations on your upcoming retirement from the U.S. Congress and congratulations to Harold Ford Jr. who, as many of you know, recently received the Democratic nomination to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee in the U.S. House of Representatives. We will miss HAROLD SR. dearly, but I want to wish Harold Jr. the best of luck in this November's election, and I look forward to serving with him in the 105th Congress. He has some very large shoes to fill.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the dedication and hard work of U.S. Representative HAROLD FORD. HAROLD FORD is the first and only African-American Tennessean elected to the House of Representatives. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. FORD, served two terms in the Tennessee State legislature.

Representative FORD is noted for his work on behalf of his constituency. Partly, as a result of his efforts, Tennessee's Ninth District receives more than its fair share of Federal contracts. Mr. FORD has also held hundreds of town meetings to ascertain the views of his constituents.

Representative FORD is a proven champion of the poor. In Mr. Ford's pivotal role on the Committee on Ways and Means, he advanced the empowerment zones and enterprise communities provisions of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. The measure created six urban and three rural empowerment zones. He has sponsored and cosponsored major legislation on healthcare reform, taxation and welfare reform. Congressman FORD's work on welfare reform, in particular is widely known. During the 103d Congress, Mr.

FORD held 20 hearings on President Bill Clinton's welfare reform measure. As ranking Democrat, Congressman FORD fought Republican efforts to pass a welfare reform bill that would weaken provisions that hurt children.

Mr. FORD has been relentless in his efforts to improve the quality of life for Americans. A recent report by the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Memphis stated that the Tennessee JOBSWORK program initiated by Representative FORD has been successful at moving welfare recipients into the workforce. In addition, the bureau reported an average increase in earnings of 163 percent compared with earnings before participation in the program.

Mr. FORD is also active in social and community activities in Memphis and throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, Representative FORD's bold leadership will be missed. I wish Mr. FORD success in his future endeavors.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, BOB CLEMENT, for allowing us this time to salute our departing colleague, HAROLD FORD. For 22 years, HAROLD has served with distinction as a Member of this legislative body. We will miss him in the days to come and we are proud to recognize him this evening for a job well done.

HAROLD FORD was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1974 to represent the Ninth District of Tennessee. He came to Congress armed with political skill and expertise. HAROLD began his political career at the age of 25 when he was elected to the State house of representatives. During his tenure, HAROLD served as majority whip and chaired a committee that investigated the rates and practices of utilities in the State.

In 1974 HAROLD FORD became the first African-American to represent the State of Tennessee in the Halls of Congress. Throughout his tenure, HAROLD has articulated the needs of those who have no voice in the political deliberations. He has brought compassion to the debate over the reform of our Nation's welfare system. He has advocated the needs of those who live in America's public housing. Further, HAROLD has championed efforts to shape programs that provide education, training, and job skills for our youth. As a member of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus, HAROLD FORD has also been a strong voice in the struggle for justice, civil rights, and equality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to note that when he was a junior Member of Congress, I had the honor of serving with HAROLD FORD on the House Select Committee on Assassinations. I chaired the panel, which was charged with conducting a 2-year investigation into the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I recall during the course of our investigations, traveling with HAROLD to the Lorraine Motel—the scene of Dr. King's assassination—which was located in his congressional district. I also recall HAROLD as a hard-working and dedicated member of the panel. The hearings and final report were a real credit to this institution and the tireless efforts of members such as HAROLD FORD.

Mr. Speaker, for many years my wife, Jay, and I have enjoyed a close friendship with HAROLD, his lovely wife, Dorothy, and members of the Ford family. As he departs from the Congress, we pause to salute him for his significant contributions to the U.S. Congress

and the Nation. I will miss him as a friend, a colleague, and a true champion.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our distinguished colleague, HAROLD FORD. HAROLD is retiring at the end of this term after a remarkable 22-year career in the House of Representatives. HAROLD has represented the city of Memphis since 1974, when he was elected to this body after serving 4 years in the Tennessee House. He was the first, and is the only, African-American elected to the Congress from Tennessee.

HAROLD came to the House as one of the 47 democratic freshman elected following the infamous Watergate scandal, and worked diligently to bring integrity and honesty back to Washington. He was one of the first members of the Congressional Black Caucus, joining at a time when we numbered just a handful of members and before we earned the considerable influence that we have gained since then.

While the boundaries of HAROLD'S congressional district cover just the city of Memphis, HAROLD has represented all of America's big cities through his effectiveness on the powerful Ways and Means Committee. In 1993 during the budget debate, HAROLD advanced the empowerment zone proposal through the committee and the Congress, establishing six urban and three rural empowerment zones, worth \$100 million each in Federal assistance. It is the most significant antipoverty initiative since the 1960's, and will help cities alleviate unemployment, spark economic growth, encourage more training and education, and end crime and drug abuse. This achievement is particularly significant to me; my hometown Detroit was named one of the urban zones December 1994.

HAROLD'S work on the Ways and Means Committee has also allowed him to dedicate his efforts to improving welfare. In fact, HAROLD was working on welfare reform before welfare reform was popular. In 1988, HAROLD worked with then-Governor Bill Clinton to write the most important welfare reform bill to date, the Family Support Act of 1988. The bill was designed to increase opportunities and obligations for work, training and education among recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children [AFDC], and required States to start education, training, and work programs for mothers on AFDC. It included provisions for medical and child care for mothers moving from welfare to work and significantly strengthened child support enforcement laws.

In 1993, HAROLD was successful in including the Family Preservation Act in the budget bill. This child welfare provision encourages States to create family support programs and programs to keep at-risk families together. It is the kind of welfare reform that we can be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, this body will sorely miss HAROLD FORD'S integrity, honesty, and diligence. I will miss him here, and in the Congressional Black Caucus, where we have spent more than two decades working together. I wish HAROLD the best of luck in his retirement, and know he will prosper next year in whatever vocation he may choose.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to submit a statement into the RECORD on the subject that I have talked about tonight, the upcoming re-

tirement of Congressman HAROLD FORD, Sr., from the U.S. House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD FORD, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for drawing our attention to the Honorable HAROLD FORD.

Ironies have its virtues. HAROLD FORD was my boss. I served as a counsel to the Select Committee on Assassinations. It was there first that I saw in this American a commitment to duty, a recognition of the seriousness of the task: The investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

It was there, as a young lawyer, that I was able to see the leadership of a young Congressperson, someone who realized that the American people still were querying this Government about whether they were satisfied at the investigation of those two very disturbing and horrible assassinations.

HAROLD FORD went about his business with extreme dedication and seriousness, recognizing that the work that he would do would either give comfort to the American people about this system or otherwise cause catastrophe and confusion. I am gratified that he stood for finding out the truth but in a balanced and honest manner that all could respect.

I have watched in these 2 years as a freshman in the U.S. Congress, and even on this floor I see that he cares about his colleagues, he cares about his constituents, and he shows it in his legislative agenda.

As a Congressperson that has been re-elected for 11 terms from the Ninth District of Tennessee, we are sure that the people of his great city, Memphis, and his State, love HAROLD FORD. They love him not only because he cares, but because HAROLD FORD is a family man.

And let me take my hat off to N.J. and Vera Ford, for they raised a family that considered public service the best testament to their commitment to the American flag and to this Nation.

He is someone who comes from a historic line of Fords and individuals who know and are part of the Tennessee history. He knows that his leadership has created the foundation for his three sons as he stood alongside of his partner. And I look forward to being able to have the opportunity to welcome his son, Harold Ford, Jr., to this body.

I watched Congressman FORD most of all through the tumultuous 104th Congress, for he had the issues that touched the people's lives who have the least among our brothers and sisters:

health care, welfare reform, children at risk, and one that I think was particularly close to him, something called the EITC, the earned income tax credit.

If ever there was a piece of legislation that withstood its attack, it was the earned income tax credit. I think Congressman FORD saw that as a way to give incentives to the working poor who, through no fault of their own, seemed to be always accused of not wanting to work.

HAROLD FORD recognized that if we gave an incentive to single parents and individuals who were barely over the poverty line to continue working, to continue going every day to work, that there would be something in it for America.

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Earned income tax credit gives to those barely over the poverty line a credit back for working. And I saw and watched HAROLD FORD work throughout the 104th Congress time after time after time saying to Republicans and Democrats alike, we cannot sacrifice the earned income tax credit, something that most people cannot even say the words or the acronym, but he fought for it because he believed in those people that sacrificed every day and said, I am not going to be on welfare, I am going to work, and they deserved an incentive.

Then when it came to welfare reform, HAROLD FORD was at every single meeting, not to beat people down, not to accuse people, but to say to all of us, there is a better way, that there needs to be a bridge, we need to protect children. I have the expertise; I am here to help. I am here to create that bridge. And HAROLD FORD did it consistently for 11 terms, but more particularly in this 104th Congress, as the ranking member on ways and means subcommittee.

So I say to his family, I say to HAROLD FORD, I thank you for teaching me. I thank you for giving those of us who would aspire to the calmness and the demeanor that you bring to this body, the evenhandedness, the compassion, the love for America, the love for Texans and Tennesseans, because I am a Texan, the love for those from Memphis, but as well the love for family and the love for those who cannot help themselves, I thank you for being that shining light.

As you go off, not from this place in terms of our hearts but physically from this place, let me call upon you to continue your leadership and to continue paving the way as we move into the 21st century. We will always be looking to hear your voice. We know that we will hear it in your son, Harold, but most of all, as I close, we know that you will continue that service. Again, let me join my good friend from Tennessee, Congressman BOB CLEMENT, to say you are a great Tennessean, but you are truly a great American.

God bless you.